

OPINION 1051

RHOPALIDIA LEPELETIER, 1836 (INSECTA: HYMENOPTERA):
SUPPRESSED UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers, the generic name *Rhopalidia* Lepeletier, 1836, is suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The generic name *Rhopalidia* Lepeletier, 1836, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2072.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 2017)

An application from Professor O. W. Richards (*University of London, U.K.*) for the suppression of the generic name *Rhopalidia* Lepeletier, 1836, was received on 26 July 1972. It was sent to the printer on 20 September 1972 and was published on 6 July 1973 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 30 : 49–50. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 31 : 97) and to nine entomological serials. No comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 8 November 1974 the members of the Commission were asked to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (74)12 for or against the proposal for the suppression of the generic name *Rhopalidia* Lepeletier, 1836, as set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 30 : 49. At the close of the Voting Period on 8 February 1975 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-one (21), received in the following order: Melville, Vokes, Holthuis, Lemche, Simpson, Alvarado, Willink, Eisenmann, Rohdendorf, Mayr, Sabrosky, Tortonese, Starobogatov, Binder, Bayer, Corliss, Nye, Heppell, Ride, Bernardi, Habe

Negative votes—none (0)

Late Affirmative vote—one (1): Erben

Abstention—one (1): Dupuis

Leave of Absence—one (1): Brinck

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Kraus, Munroe.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission in returning their Voting Papers:

M. Dupuis: Je refuse de voter car, à mon avis, c'est la définition orthographique de l'homonymie (Articles 52, 56a) qui est la source de nos difficultés. Elles persisteront aussi longtemps qu'il n'y aura pas une définition à la fois orthographique et étymologique. Il est évident que *Ropalidia* et *Rhopalidia* sont étymologiquement homonymes et qu'il n'y a pas besoin de pleins pouvoirs pour reconnaître cette homonymie. Que, par hasard, ces homonymes représentent deux choses distinctes est un autre problème, bien tranché par le Code.

Dr. Heppell: As I do not oppose the suppression of *Rhopalidia* Lepeletier, 1836, I have voted for this proposal, but I believe the applicant may have misinterpreted the facts. He provides no evidence to support the statement that *Rhopalidia* "was an independent foundation" from *Ropalidia*; it seems more likely that Lepeletier's concept of the genus included Guérin-Méneville's species, otherwise there would have been no reason for Guérin-Méneville to adopt Lepeletier's spelling of the name. Guérin-Méneville's statement that his own species was too different to require comparison does not necessarily indicate that he did not consider them congeneric. *Rhopalidia* could thus be considered an unjustified emendation of *Ropalidia* and a junior objective synonym of it, offering no threat to *Stelopolybia* or *Angiopolybia*. As the nominal genus *Rhopalidia* has, nevertheless, rightly or wrongly, been interpreted by some authors as established independently of *Ropalidia*, I see no reason for not endorsing the proposals.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following is the original reference for the name placed on an Official Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

Rhopalidia Lepeletier de St. Fargeau, A., 1836, *Histoire naturelle des Insectes. Hyménoptères* 1 : 538 (Roret's *Suites à Buffon*, Paris).

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (74)21 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1051.

R. V. MELVILLE
Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

23 September 1975